

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action, dated April 6, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks. Claims 31-50 are pending in the Application, and these same claims have been rejected. Claims 31, 39-41, and 50 stand rejected now under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious (previously they were rejected under § 102(e) as anticipated) by U.S. Pat. No. 6,698,653 (Diamond et al.). Claims 32-38 and 42-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Diamond et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,010 (Musgrave).

Rejection of Claims 31-50 Under § 103(a)

Claims 31, 42, and 50 are the independent claims. These independent claims have been amended by adding the terms “from a plurality of venues.” For example, claim 31 recites:

A system for expediting security checking, comprising:

an interface configured for an individual to order a security clearance *for a particular venue from a plurality of venues*, wherein ordering the security clearance results in at least a verification of the individual's identity; and

a check-point to which the verification is routed, wherein the verification occurs before the arrival of the individual at the check-point.

(emphasis added). The interface allows an individual to *order a security clearance for a particular venue from a plurality of venues*.

The RFID smart card-cum-check-in station system mentioned by the Examiner falls short of teaching this limitation since any check-in verification occurs already at the venue, and so selecting a clearance from a plurality of venues is not a option that Diamond et al. can provide (since an individual is already at the venue he wants to enter, it makes no technological sense to give the individual the option of selecting, say, another venue from a plurality of venues). Please see Fig. 6, box 72 in the Passenger Process Overview flowchart, for a typical scenario that Diamond et al. discloses.

Independent claims 42 and 50 contain similar limitations to that of claim 1, discussed above. Claims 32-41 and 43-49 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 31 and 42, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 31-50 patentably define over Diamond et al. alone or in combination with any other cited

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references, namely, Musgrave. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowability of the newly introduced claims is thus earnestly solicited.

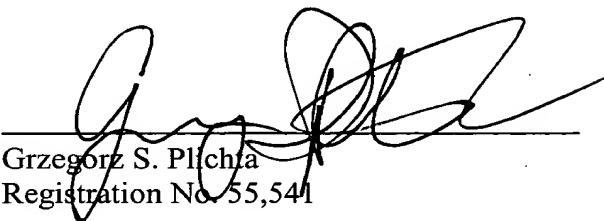
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 31-50 of the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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